

OUR INDIAN STATIONS.

The Conference at Cocanada.

Mr. Craig writes :—Our session on Saturday was very short, as an ordination took place in the afternoon. On Sunday Bro. Churchill preached in the morning before the Teluguchurch and congregation, and Bro. Archibald preached in the evening before a good congregation in the meeting-house of our English church. We had meetings of the conference on Monday and Tuesday and part of Wednesday. Reports from the various fields were read and commented on; after which some important subjects were discussed. A basis of union in work at the Theological Seminary was adopted, and will be submitted to the Boards at home for their approval or rejection. We all feel that one seminary will be sufficient for both missions from any days to come. Before another is needed our two societies will probably become one. Mrs. McLaurin and Mr. Churchill had been appointed to prepare papers for this meeting.

Baptisms were reported as follows :—Cocanada, 123; Tuni, 18; Akidu, 178; Chicacole, 13; total Telugus baptized, 332. Besides these there were 16 Europeans and Eurasians baptized at Cocanada and 4 at Bimlipatam, making the total of baptisms on the fields during 1883, 352. I have forgotten the membership reported by the northern mission; but here is the number of the members connected with our mission. On the Cocanada field, 263; on the Tuni field, 50; on the Akidu field, 975; total, 1,288. In the English church at Cocanada there were 30 members at the end of the year, making a grand total of 1,318 members in our churches. Four years ago, in writing to my father, I said we should probably have 1,000 members on this field in five years from then. In four years we have that number lacking but a few. Some have been baptized already this year, and many others are ready to follow.

Tuni.

Mr. and Mrs. Currie, with their children, were to sail from Madras for home on the 14th of February. They expect to spend some time in London. Messrs. Timpany and McLaurin will oversee the work on this field, as well as at Akidu, to the best of their ability.

Bobbili.

Mr. and Mrs. Archibald will take charge of this station during the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, who were to sail on the 19th of March in the same vessel as Mr. Craig.

THE WORK AT HOME.

Ontario and Quebec.

TO THE MISSION CIRCLES OF THE EASTERN CONVENTION.

My Dear Friends,—Although it is a long time since you heard from me, it is not because I have not often thought of each of the circles, but because ill health has prevented me writing. At last I have consented to give up all thought of work and take a complete change and rest, by coming to the North-West. The President of our Society, who has always taken a deep interest in the for-

matron of each Circle, has promised to undertake the correspondence for me. I hope you will write to her and she will gladly help you with any of your meetings. Her address is, Mrs. Claxton, 461 St. Urbain St., Montreal.

I would like to take this opportunity of saying a few things that have been on my heart in regard to our work. The object of our organization is three-fold; to pray for our missionaries in India and for a blessing on their labors; to contribute what we can to the mission; and to seek to interest those about us so that they will give to its funds. We need to keep these three purposes constantly before us. Although in some of our meetings it would seem as if we almost forgot the first object, I am sure it occupies a very important place in all our hearts. We know that it is God alone who can give us love, zeal and perseverance in good; and we believe in the efficacy of prayer, that it forms the foundation and preparation for all true Christian work. The thought of wonderful answers to the prayers of humble Christians like ourselves, which God has deigned to give, ought to stimulate us to pray often for the conversion of the Telugus, and for our friends who are laboring among them. There is great power in united prayer, and although we cannot all meet together to pray for this, there is one place we can meet in spirit and that is the Mercy Seat. The last few months I have been thinking what a sweet sense of fellowship it would give and a source of power it would be, if all of us individually, in the quiet of our own homes, at a specified hour, would spend a short time in prayer for our Foreign Mission. I would suggest any time on every Wednesday evening between six and eight o'clock. Surely, during these hours even the very busiest among us can find a few moments to lift up our hearts in prayer. The reason I have thought of Wednesday is because most of us go to the church prayer meeting that evening, and the short time spent in private prayer prior to it will prepare us to enjoy, and perhaps, contribute to the spirituality of the meeting. I should be greatly rejoiced to think while praying at the time I have suggested, that in many places over Canada others are with me in spirit and the same petition is being offered for the success of a work dear to us all. I hope the sisters of the western society will join with us, so that we may have a real prayer union, for I feel sure that many of those I know will gladly comply with this request.

In thus striving to fulfil the first purpose of our society and bring down a blessing on the mission, we will undoubtedly find the second pressing more heavily upon our hearts. But who would shrink from prayer because it will lead us to give more of our time and means to God's work? Would we not rather gladly welcome any influence that will bring us more in sympathy with the great loving self-sacrificing heart of God, and show us how we may grow more like Him. Let us listen oftener to the cry that comes from the millions of heathen who know not God, so that our hearts may be filled with pity and a desire to help.

It seems to me that true prayer which takes the form of petition, is always followed by action, when action is possible. If we sincerely ask God to fill our hearts with holy thoughts, we turn to His Word and read of Him who is holy and undefiled. If we sincerely pray for strength to resist our sins and follies, we set ourselves definitely to watch for their appearance, and with God's help check them. So in praying earnestly for any work we get an impulse to help and often have ways and means revealed to us that were unthought of before. Many of you know this from experience, and it does not require much foresight to predict that a special time spent each week in